

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 have been examined. Claims 1, 2, 5-12, 15-26, 29, and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and claims 3, 4, 13, 14, 27, 28, 31, and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S.P. 6,115,137 to Ozawa et al. (“Ozawa”)

Claims 1, 2, 5-12, 15-26, 29, and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ozawa.

A. Claim 1

As noted on Page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that, during a personal interview, he agreed that Ozawa does not suggest that the claimed program transmitting command relates to a transmission of a program recorded on the external recording medium. However, upon further consideration, he contends that claim 1 does not specify the order of performing the claimed operations and thus, maintains that Ozawa anticipates the claim. Without acknowledging the merits of the rejection, Applicants have amended claim 1 to state that the method transmits a request-to-send program command after receiving the program transmitting command. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Ozawa for at least this reason.

B. Claim 2

Since claim 2 recites features that are similar to the features discussed above in conjunction with claim 1, Applicants submit that claim 2 is patentable for similar reasons.

C. Claims 5-10

Since claims 5-10 depend upon claim 1 or 2, Applicants submit that they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

D. Claims 11 and 12

Since claims 11 and 12 recite features that are similar to the features discussed above in conjunction with claim 1, Applicants submit that claims 11 and 12 are patentable for similar reasons.

E. Claims 15-26, 29, and 30

Since claims 15-26, 29, and 30 depend upon claim 1, 2, 11, or 12, Applicants submit that they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ozawa and JP 09-046577 to Yasuyuki et al. (“Yasuyuki”)

Claims 3, 4, 13, 14, 27, 28, 31, and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa and Yasuyuki. Since claims 3, 4, 13, 14, 27, 28, 31, and 32 depend upon claim 1, 2, 11, or 12, and since Yasuyuki does not cure the deficient teachings of Ozawa with respect to claims 1, 2, 11, and 12, Applicants submit that claims 3, 4, 13, 14, 27, 28, 31, and 32 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/414,507

Attorney docket No. Q56144

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

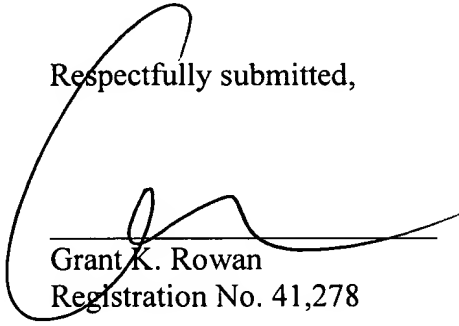
Respectfully submitted,

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